QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS—*contd.*

Retrenching the Number of Superintending Engineers.

Q.—39. **Mr. K. MARULAPPA** (Kadur Taluk).—

Will the Government be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the number of Superintending Engineers in the Engineering Department in the Mysore State ;

(*b*) whether it is possible to retrench at least two of them ?

A.—**The SECRETARY to GOVERNMENT, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT (Diwan Bahadur N. N. Ayyangar).**—

(*a*) Three.

(*b*) No.

Funds of the Coffee Experimental Station.

Q.—41. **Mr. ALFRED MIDDLETON** (Special Interests).—

Will the Government be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether the amount spent annually on the control of Coffee Stem Borer Beetle come from the funds allotted to the Coffee Experimental Station, Balehonnur ;

(*b*) if funds of the Station are depleted to carry out extraordinary measures, whether the regular programme of experimental work does not suffer ?

A.—**The SECRETARY to GOVERNMENT, DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT (Mr. M. Venkatanaranappa).**—

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No. The funds are sufficient to meet both these items of expenditure.

Mr. ALFRED MIDDLETON.—Why should the funds intended for experimental work be diverted for any extraordinary measures ?

The DIRECTOR of AGRICULTURE (Mr. T. G. Rama Iyer).—According to the Government Order defining the purposes for which coffee cess funds may be used, the funds can be used not only for research but also for any cognate objects which the Government approve of, and this is one of such objects.

Mr. ALFRED MIDDLETON.—My point is that the funds are not enough for the main purposes of the Experimental Station, and that therefore they should not be diverted for any other objects.

Mr. T. G. RAMA IYER.—It is only when there is sufficient balance left after meeting the regular programme of experimental work, that funds are diverted to allied objects.

Mr. ALFRED MIDDLETON.—Why not augment the grant to the Experimental Station ?

Mr. T. G. RAMA IYER.—If the funds already granted are utilised and the need for additional funds is felt, we can consider that question.

Srimathi D. SAKAMMA.—Is any portion of the grant meant for the Experimental Station used for combating the borer pest ? Is combating the pest not a function of the department itself ?

Mr. T. G. RAMA IYER.—The cost of the establishment maintained for the control of the borer beetle is borne from coffee cess funds this year. But the expenditure on items like removal of the affected plants should be borne by the planters concerned.

Srimathi D. SAKAMMA.—What are the details of the establishment referred to ?

Mr. T. G. RAMA IYER.—It consists of 2 junior entomologists and 20 fieldmen.

Srimathi D. SAKAMMA.—Is there no need for increasing the staff ?

Mr. T. G. RAMA IYER.—This year we have spent about Rs. 6,000 on combating this pest. The work is going on briskly.

Mr. MIR MAHOMED SAB.—How far are the coffee planters benefited by the removal of the affected plants ?

Mr. T. G. RAMA IYER.—There is no doubt that they are considerably benefited by it as destruction of the affected plants kills the borers in them which otherwise would multiply.

Mr. MIR MAHOMED SAB.—If the Government insist on the removal of the affected plants, will they also arrange for planting fresh ones instead?

Mr. T. G. RAMA IYER.—The planters concerned will have to do it.

Mr. MIR MAHOMED SAB.—Are the Government not aware that the planters are unable to do so in their present state of indebtedness?

Mr. T. G. RAMA IYER.—In some estates, because of continued neglect, the damage caused by the borer pest is very considerable. In such cases, replanting will be difficult. But in the case of well-cared for plantations, the replanting will be only on a small scale

Mr. S. N. RAMANNA.—Is it because there were spare funds at the credit of the Coffee Experimental Station that they were diverted for combating the borer pest?

Mr. T. G. RAMA IYER.—No. It was permissible to utilise available funds for this purpose also.

Mr. S. N RAMANNA.—Government are levying a coffee cess of 2 annas per acre, because there are not sufficient funds at the disposal of the Experimental Station. Is it not?

Mr. T. G. RAMA IYER.—Yes, and the Government also have been contributing an equal amount.

Mr. S. N. RAMANNA.—Is combating the borer pest connected in any way with the regular work of the Experimental Station?

Mr. T. G. RAMA IYER.—The Experimental Station carries on research work in this matter also.

Mr. S. N. RAMANNA.—Is it not the duty of Government to meet the cost of borer control from State funds entirely?

Mr. T. G. RAMA IYER.—According to the original Government Notification of 1927, this is one of the items for which the collections from coffee cess could be utilised.

Mr. S. N. RAMANNA.—The original notification says that the cess collections must be utilised for experimental work.

Mr. T. G. RAMA IYER.—It says that the collections can be utilised for research or other cognate objects relating to the welfare of coffee plantations and also of other crops grown on coffee plantations. For instance, experiments regarding cardamom improvement can be undertaken with the help of these funds.

Mr. S. N. RAMANNA.—Seeing that the coffee cess was levied only for a limited period of years and that the planters are in an extremely difficult plight now, and seeing also that the fund has accumulated to a decent amount, why not reduce the coffee cess or abolish it altogether?

Mr. T. G. RAMA IYER.—That inference is not warranted by the facts. This borer control also relates to the protection of the coffee industry. The borer pest cannot be combated without funds. If the funds are exhausted, the question of meeting the cost from some other source will have to be considered.

Bettadanagenahalli Railway Station.

Q.—43. Mr. Patel MALLAPPA (Chitaldrug Taluk).—

Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(*a*) whether, as Bettadanagenahalli Railway Station on the Chikjajur-Chitaldrug line is made a "Box Station," it is a fact that the people of eight or ten villages adjoining this railway station, *viz.*, Bheemasamudra, Thurebylu, Bettadanagenahalli, Palya and other villages have presented petitions representing that the income from passenger traffic at this station is satisfactory; that arrangements may be made for the stoppage of the goods train to serve in-coming and out-going goods traffic and that a proper building for the station and quarters for the Station Master may be constructed;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that, in reply, the petitioners were intimated that the building in question would be constructed and arrangements made for stoppage of goods train at the place;

(*c*) if this is a fact, why the construction of the buildings has not been started till now;

(*d*) whether it has not come to their attention that the public are put to much difficulty on this account?